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THIS MESSAGE HAS 15 PAGES INCLUDING THIS SHEET

TO: Commissioner for Patents

FAX NO.: 703-872-9306

FROM: Keith Taboada, Esq.

DATE: March 18, 2004

MATTER: Serial No. 09/776,329 Filed: February 2, 2001

DOCKET NO.: AMAT/5192/ISM/CORE/MCVD/S

APPLICANT: Seutter, et al.

The following has been received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date of this facsimile:

☐ Petition  
☐ Disclosure Statement & PTO-1449  
☐ Priority Document  
☐ Drawings ( sheets) informal  
☐ Amendment  
☒ Response to Office Action (14 pages)

☐ Transmittal Letter (2 copies)  
☐ Fee Transmittal (2 copies)  
☐ Deposit Account Transaction  
☒ Facsimile Transmission Certificate  
dated March 18, 2004

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

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Allyson M. DeVesty  
Name of person signing this certificate

Allyson M. DeVesty 3-18-04  
Signature and date

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
Serial No. 09/776,329  
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IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant: Seutter, et al.

Case: AMAT/5192/ISM/CORE/MCVD/S

Serial No.: 09/776,329

Filed: February 2, 2001

Examiner: Thomas, Toniae M.

Group Art Unit: 2822

Confirmation No.: 9575

Title: FORMATION OF A TANTALUM-NITRIDE LAYER

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2004**

In response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 13, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

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